

## SAVE THE DATES

- 10/17 – LWVA Board meeting – 7 - 9 pm  
@ Alameda Hospital, Conf Room C.
- 10/24 – Public Forum: Campaign \$\$\$ – 7 - 9 pm  
@ Harbor Bay Community Center,  
3195 Mecartney Road (Bay Farm Island).
- 10/28 – Book Club – 3:00 - 4:30 pm  
@ Applebee's, 2263 South Shore Center.
- 11/01 – First Friday Social – 6:00 - 8:00 pm  
@ La Penca Azúl - Bay Farm Island.
- 11/20 – Public Forum: Health Care – 7 - 9 pm  
@ Alameda Hospital, Dal Cielo Conf. Rm.  
2070 Clinton Avenue (@ Willow).
- 11/21 – LWVA Board meeting – 7 - 9 pm  
@ Alameda Hospital, Conf. Room C.
- 12/08 – LWVA Holiday Party – 5:00 - 8:00 pm  
@ Li Volin's home. (*Guests welcome.*)

*NOTE: No LWVA social dinner, board meeting, or public forum in December. Happy Holidays!*

### 2014 DATES TO SAVE

- 1/03 – First Friday Social – 6:00 - 8:00 pm.  
Location TBA.
- 1/16 – LWVA Board meeting – 7 - 9 pm  
@ Alameda Hospital, Conf Room C.
- 1/23 – LWVA Positions Meeting – 7 - 9 pm.  
Location TBA. (*All members invited.*)
- 4/24 – MYPO Reception/Fundraiser – 5 - 7 pm.  
Location TBA. (*All members invited.*)

The League of Women Voters®  
of Alameda  
PO Box 1645  
Alameda, CA 94501

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## Join or Renew Your Membership in the Alameda League Today!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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(if a family membership)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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\$70 Single Membership     \$97 Family Membership     \$25 Student Membership. (Dues year is Jan. 1 – Dec. 31.)  
Dues assistance is available for those on limited incomes – contact us at 869-4969. Make checks payable to  
**LWV Alameda** and mail to: League of Women Voters of Alameda, PO Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501

### All Donations are Tax Deductible

Donations to the League of Women Voters of Alameda, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, are tax deductible. You can support the LWVA with a check made out to LWV Alameda. Please send it to:

League of Women Voters of Alameda, PO Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501.

### Turn Cans into Cash for the LWVA

Lynn and Jim Groh collect aluminum cans, sell them, and give the proceeds to the LWVA. Drop your aluminum cans on their front porch at 1546 Eastshore Drive, Alameda, and help the League educate voters.

## The League of Women Voters® of Alameda

P.O. Box 1645  
Alameda, CA 94501  
Voice mail: 510-869-4969  
[www.alameda.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.alameda.ca.lwvnet.org)

The VOTER newsletter is published nine times a year. Current and past VOTER issues are posted on our web site.

### ELECTED LWVA BOARD

Co-president: Kate Quick  
[katequick@comcast.net](mailto:katequick@comcast.net)  
Co-president: Felice Zensius  
[felicez@ymail.com](mailto:felicez@ymail.com)

Administrative VP:  
Robertamarie Kiley  
[rkiley7@comcast.net](mailto:rkiley7@comcast.net)

Program VP:  
Ruth Dixon-Mueller  
[dixonmueller@yahoo.com](mailto:dixonmueller@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Earleen Hamlin  
[Erhamlin@earthlink.net](mailto:Erhamlin@earthlink.net)

Treasurer: Ted Frey  
[frey.ted@gmail.com](mailto:frey.ted@gmail.com)

Voter Service: Dorothy Fullerton  
[dorothy.fullerton@gmail.com](mailto:dorothy.fullerton@gmail.com)

Action Chair: Karen Butter  
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Membership Chair:  
Gayle Thomas  
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MYPO: Alice Wilson-Fried  
[alicefried89@gmail.com](mailto:alicefried89@gmail.com)

At-large: Jessi Bushey  
[jebu30@hotmail.com](mailto:jebu30@hotmail.com)

At-large: Mike Williams  
[williams26m@gmail.com](mailto:williams26m@gmail.com)

At-large: Marian Breitbart  
[mbreitbart@mac.com](mailto:mbreitbart@mac.com)

At-Large: Joe Van Winkle  
[Joe\\_vanwinkle@hotmail.com](mailto:Joe_vanwinkle@hotmail.com)

### APPOINTED BOARD

At-Large: Jeff Cambra  
[jeffcambra@earthlink.net](mailto:jeffcambra@earthlink.net)  
Web/VOTER: Jon Spangler  
[jonswriter@att.net](mailto:jonswriter@att.net)

E-Comm: Donna Vaughn  
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Health Care: Shubha Fanse  
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Smart Voter, Budget Chair:  
Juella-Ann Boyer  
[jab@borupp.org](mailto:jab@borupp.org)

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

--LWV Mission Statement



Volume 45  
Number 13  
October 2013

# VOTER

Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation

## October Co-president's Message

As fall arrives, I hope that you all had a relaxing summer and are ready to take up the mantle and begin our work for the coming year.

The theme of our State Convention was "My League: Leading the Charge for Change." Many of our members have been doing that consistently here in our community—some for over 35 years. I look around at our League leaders and see a lot of activity since our annual meeting in June.

Our Action Committee has been monitoring school, city, and state actions in order to provide more transparency in government. Our Programs Committee is moving forward with powerful and educational evenings planned for the months ahead. We are implementing paperless (electronic) VOTER newsletter delivery, beginning in January 2014, to move us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are also launching a Facebook page and adopting new ideas for using social media. Voter Services is already ramping up for the June 2014 elections, planning voter registration and outreach as well as education for our youth. Our Health Care committee has been busy all summer and will present a program on Wednesday, November 20, on the Affordable Care Act and Covered California (<https://www.coveredca.com/covered-california/index.html>).

If you attend LWVA Board meetings, please note that we now meet half an hour earlier, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. (*See Programs story on page 7. ed.*)

On the lighter side, our LWVA Book Club has been meeting monthly for lively discussions on many different topics. (*See story page 5. ed.*) Of course, there are also the First Friday Social Dinners at different locations around the city. (*The next Friday Night Social Dinner is November 1 from 6-8 pm at La Penca Azúl, 891-B Island Drive—near LaVal's Pizza in the Harbor Bay Landing Shopping Center on Bay Farm Island (510-814-0560; <http://www.lapencaazul.com/>. See story page 6. ed)*)

Do any of these activities and priorities interest you? Our membership has grown substantially over the past year thanks to a great effort, and we need all of our members to help "lead the charge for change." Give a call to any one of us to help shape the future of our city, state, and nation. Jump in the water with us: you will find that we are a nice group of people and the work is fun and meaningful.

--Felice Zensius, Co-president

**Please join us on Thursday, October 24, 7-9 PM, for**  
***Money and Politic\$ in Alameda:***  
***Time for Local Campaign Finance Reform?***

**WHERE: Community Center of Harbor Bay Isle**  
**3195 Mecartney Road (Bay Farm Island)**

*The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.*

League of Women Voters of Alameda 2/8 October 2013 VOTER

# Forum on ‘Money and Politics in Alameda’ Features Robert Stern October 24 at Community Center of Harbor Bay Isle, 7-9 PM Is It Time for Local Campaign Finance Reform?

Campaign finance expert Robert Stern will be the keynote speaker at the LWVA’s October 24 public forum on **Money and Politics in Alameda: Time for Local Campaign Finance Reform?** Also on the panel are [Whitney Barazoto](#), Executive Director of the [City of Oakland Public Ethics Commission](#), and [Robert Gammon](#), co-editor of the weekly [East Bay Express](#).

The LWVA’s free community forum will be on Thursday October 24, from 7-9 pm at the [Community Center of Harbor Bay Isle](#) off of Island Drive on Bay Farm Island. This accessible facility is [next to Temple Israel](#) at [3195 Mecartney Road](#), behind the service station and CVS Pharmacy at the [Harbor Bay Landing Shopping Center](#).

Stern, who co-authored the [California Political Reform Act of 1974](#) and is the former president of the non-partisan [Center for Governmental Studies](#) in Los Angeles, is a widely recognized authority on elections and government ethics. (*See bio of Robert Stern on p. 4. ed.*) [Sacramento Bee](#) columnist Peter Schrag has called him “[the godfather of modern political reform in California](#).”

Stern will provide a historical perspective on national and state efforts to ensure fair elections, including California Senate Bills 2, 3, and 27, which the [League of Women Voters® of California](#) (LWVC) [supported](#). Barazoto and Gammon will provide East Bay perspectives on how money influences the political process in local elections and the role of local ordinances and ethics commissions. A question-and-answer session will follow the panel discussion.

The [League of Women Voters® of the United States](#) first adopted its [Position on Campaign Finance](#) in 1974. The LWVC adopted its first [Position on Campaign Financing](#) in 1973.

The LWVA Board is currently studying and crafting policy recommendations on local campaign finance reform and transparency that are based on these long-established League positions. For more information on the LWVA campaign finance proposals under consideration, please contact Action Chair Karen Butter ([karenbutter@comcast.net](mailto:karenbutter@comcast.net); 510-769-9634) or Joe Van Winkle ([Joe\\_vanwinkle@hotmail.com](mailto:Joe_vanwinkle@hotmail.com); 916-716-0445).

“The time for campaign finance reform in Alameda has arrived,” said LWVA Co-president Felice Zensius. “The League of Women Voters of Alameda is proud to have Robert Stern, a true expert on the subject, address our community.”

Organized by Joe Van Winkle and Karen Butter of the LWVA Action Committee, this event promises to generate an especially lively discussion.

*--Ruth Dixon-Mueller, Program Chair*

## LWVA Treasurer’s Fiscal Report – August 31, 2013

### August Income

August Receipts:	\$0.00
August Expenditures:	\$169.65
<b><u>Net Reduction in Assets:</u></b>	<b><u>\$169.65</u></b>

### Balance Sheet 9/1/2013

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash Balance per Books	\$11,378.36
CD	\$10,000.00
<b><u>Net Assets</u></b>	<b><u>\$21,378.36</u></b>

### Bank Account Cash Flow

Beginning Cash	\$11,548.01
Net Increase/Reduction in Assets	\$169.65
<b><u>Cash Balance per Books 8/1/2013</u></b>	<b><u>\$11,378.36</u></b>

*--Ted Frey, LWVA Treasurer*

*The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.*

League of Women Voters of Alameda 3/8 October 2013 VOTER

## **Campaign Finance Reformer Robert Stern a Member of Los Angeles LWV**

*(This biography of Robert Stern, our October 24 forum keynote speaker, appeared on page 7 of the July-August VOTER newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles (LWVLA): [http://lwvlosangeles.org/files/July-Aug\\_2013.pdf](http://lwvlosangeles.org/files/July-Aug_2013.pdf). See story on p. 3 about the forum: "Money and Politics in Alameda: Time for Local Campaign Finance Reform?" ed.)*



*Long-time campaign finance reform advocate Robert Stern is a member of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles, Photo courtesy of Robert Stern.*

### **THE LEAGUE WELCOMES ROBERT M. STERN AS A MEMBER**

Bob Stern is past President of the Center for Governmental Studies and was the first general counsel of the California Fair Political Practices Commission, the agency in charge of administering California's campaign disclosure, ethics, and lobbying laws. He was the co-author of the Center's study: "Democracy by Initiative: Shaping California's Fourth Branch of Government." For the past 25 years, he has led discussions of the issues facing California's voters as they go to the polls.

The *Washington Monthly* magazine described him as a "campaign finance guru," and Peter Schrag, in the *Sacramento Bee*, called Stern the "godfather of modern political reform in California." He was a principal co-author of the Political Reform Act of 1974, Proposition 9, and principal drafter of the City of Los Angeles' Ethics and Public Campaign Financing laws. He is a graduate of Pomona College and Stanford Law School.

*--from the July-August newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles (LWVLA)*

## **Hear Robert Stern, the Keynote Speaker at the LWVA's October 24 Forum: *Money and Politic\$ in Alameda: Time for Local Campaign Reform?***

*The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.*

League of Women Voters of Alameda 4/8 October 2013 VOTER

## LWVA Membership Report—October 2013

At the Annual Retreat in July, Membership listed “Visibility and Outreach” as its goals for this next year.

Many events, programs, and activities—voter registration comes to mind—have already helped meet this goal and had positive effects on our community. The Program Committee, headed by Ruth Dixon-Mueller, brings great visibility to the League while providing resources for the community. In addition to offering public forums and voter services, League members contribute to meeting our membership goals whenever they attend City Council, Chamber of Commerce, and other non-League community events. *Thanks to all of your contributions, we now have a record 122 members.*

I was proud to recently witness—and enjoy—our September 6 First Friday Dinner with an incredible 30 attendees at the 1400 Bar and Grill for Connie Slattery-Hanna’s terrific event! We shared a beautiful evening of outside dining, had a chance to mingle with our wonderful members, and supported a local restaurant. Quite a few people wondered about our large, lively group on the patio: I answered questions for a couple of them.

So the work for Membership this year is done, right? Hardly.

Our League has not yet adopted some effective tools for digital visibility and outreach, but we will be using them soon. One of them, “social media,” has been a hot topic at Board meetings, even though not everyone in our League utilizes Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Flickr, or Google+. (And Twitter? The closest thing to a “tweet” that I know is blowing on a whistle I picked up at the “Ride the Duck” tour in San Francisco!)

From a Membership recruiting viewpoint, using these new visibility and outreach methods is not just based on how our members currently communicate: we also need to be where our prospective members are. (Face it: you are *already* a member. We are not trying to get you to join—although I will be after your annual dues...) But we *are* going after a new group of people who obtain their information digitally, through electronic media.

The Communications Committee will play an integral role in reaching and recruiting new members by making the LWVA more visible on social media and by delivering the VOTER electronically in 2014. (*Readers who want a paper copy can print one from their digital copy or pay a dues surcharge of \$10 per year to receive a printed VOTER by US Mail, ed.*) Of course, everyone will be able to keep up with the latest event listings and view MYPO photos on an LWVA Facebook page: we can all “jump in” and join the party: the LWVA will help you learn to “swim” in social media, too.

Adding newer tech-savvy methods of communication while continuing the communication traditions of the past offers us the best chance to recruit in a well-rounded way. And Membership certainly appreciates all the efforts being made to ensure that we communicate fully and reach people using every possible platform, whether personal, digital, or in print.

***Renew your membership for 2014 early and win an orchid plant.*** To encourage everyone to renew early for 2014, every member joining or renewing by December 1, 2013, will be entered into a drawing for the chance to win a lovely orchid plant. You can support the Alameda League’s work to keep our government open and responsive and have a chance to win a beautiful orchid. Plus, your 2014 dues will be deductible on your 2013 taxes: what a winning combination!

Thank you, everyone, for putting us well on the way to meeting Membership’s visibility and outreach goals for this next year. I can’t wait to see the new members we will bring into our League!

--Gayle Thomas, Membership Chair

## Book Club Meets October 28 at South Shore Applebee’s

On Monday, October 28, at 3:00 pm, the LWVA Book Club will meet at Applebee’s restaurant at 2263 South Shore Center to talk about “My Beloved World,” by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. We will discuss the first Hispanic woman appointed to the Supreme Court and her journey as a child with juvenile diabetes from the Bronx housing projects to the federal bench.

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, November’s book session has been moved to 3:00 pm on Monday, December 2. Our selection that day is another NY Times bestseller, “Zealot: the Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth,” by Reza Aslan. This meticulously researched biography challenges long-held assumptions about the man we know as Jesus of Nazareth.

Please call Anne Spanier (522-3426) if you would like to join us.

--Anne Spanier, Book Club

*The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.*

League of Women Voters of Alameda 5/8 October 2013 VOTER

## **Covered California: How California's Health Care Exchange Works LWVA Forum at Alameda Hospital November 20, 7-9 PM**

What is California's brand-new Health Insurance Exchange, anyway? And how does it work?

Join us at November's LWVA public forum on **Wednesday, November 20** (note the change of day and date), at Alameda Hospital from 7-9 pm to find out how to sign up under the Affordable Care Act—and to hear how well the state's new health insurance exchange, Covered California, is working.

This free community forum will be in the Dal Cielo Conference Room on the second floor of Alameda Hospital at 2070 Clinton Avenue (at Willow). Parking space is available in the hospital lot during the evening.

As of press time, Health Care Committee Chair Shubha Fanse is still securing speakers for the panel discussion while Covered California (<https://www.coveredca.com/>) gets up and running. For the latest info on the speakers and other forum details please visit: [http://alameda.ca.lwvnet.org/Public\\_Events.html](http://alameda.ca.lwvnet.org/Public_Events.html).

*--Shubha Fanse, Health Care Committee Chair*

## **Next First Friday Social Dinner November 1 at La Penca Azúl in Harbor Bay Landing**

On November 1, **La Penca Azúl – Bay Farm** hosts the League's First Friday Social Dinner. The festivities will begin at 6:00 pm and conclude at around 8:00 pm. La Penca Azúl, a Mexican restaurant, is near LaVal's Pizza in the Harbor Bay Landing Shopping Center at 891-B Island Drive on Bay Farm Island (510-814-0560; <http://www.lapencaazul.com/>).

*Please RSVP to Connie Slattery-Hanna (510-995-8672; [connie.hanna@comcast.net](mailto:connie.hanna@comcast.net)) by Thursday, October 31.*

Google Maps Link for **La Penca Azúl – Bay Farm**:

[https://maps.google.com/maps?q=food&hl=en&ll=37.740042,-122.240603&spn=0.009044,0.014141&sll=37.737558,-122.240368&sspn=0.009045,0.014141&near=891+Island+Dr,+Alameda,+CA+94502&geocode=CZaFWCf\\_Dd1sFVbUPWldkMK2-C11Sim2PYSPgDH0roHfb5usiA&hq=food&t=m&z=16&iwloc=C](https://maps.google.com/maps?q=food&hl=en&ll=37.740042,-122.240603&spn=0.009044,0.014141&sll=37.737558,-122.240368&sspn=0.009045,0.014141&near=891+Island+Dr,+Alameda,+CA+94502&geocode=CZaFWCf_Dd1sFVbUPWldkMK2-C11Sim2PYSPgDH0roHfb5usiA&hq=food&t=m&z=16&iwloc=C)

There will be no First Friday Social Dinner in December but the LWVA monthly social gatherings will resume January 3 at 6:00 pm.

The September dinner at the 1400 Bar and Grill (in the Croll building) drew 30 League members and guests for *al fresco* dining in the patio and about a dozen diners gathered October 4 at the High Street Station and Cafe.

These events move to a different Alameda restaurant every month. If you like an Alameda restaurant, please contact Connie Slattery-Hanna (510-995-8672; [connie.hanna@comcast.net](mailto:connie.hanna@comcast.net)) with your recommendations for great new eateries. Reservations are made far in advance so please RSVP to help the restaurants plan for us.

*--Connie Slattery-Hanna*

## **Elected Officials Offer Satellite Office Hours at Alameda Main Library**

Staffers from Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Assemblymember Rob Bonta are holding satellite office hours every month in the second-floor Administrative Conference Room of the Alameda Free Library's Main Branch.

Staffers from the Congresswoman Lee's local office are available on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 3:00 – 5:00 pm at Alameda's main library. Staffers from Assembly Member Bonta's office are available from 1:00 – 3:00 pm on every fourth Thursday, also in the Administrative Conference Room. The Alameda Main Library is at 1550 Oak Street (at Lincoln Avenue) in Alameda.

*--Karen Butter, Action Chair*

## **Join Us for *Covered California: How Our State Health Care Exchange Works* LWVA Public Forum at Alameda Hospital on Wednesday, November 20, 7-9 PM**

*The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.*

League of Women Voters of Alameda 6/8 October 2013 VOTER

## Upcoming LWVA Programs for 2013-2014

The LWVA's fall programs kicked off with over 60 people attending the September 26 public forum on sea level rise at Alameda Point—and there are many more 2013-2014 League programs and events to come.

Please save the dates below and invite your friends and neighbors to join us. For the latest info on LWVA public forums and programs, visit: [http://alameda.ca.lwvnet.org/Public\\_Events.html](http://alameda.ca.lwvnet.org/Public_Events.html).

**Thursday, October 17**      **LWVA Board meeting**      **7:00 – 9:00 pm** (*Note new time*)  
**Location:** Alameda Hospital, Conference Room C (first floor). *All members are welcome.*

**Thursday, Oct. 24**      **Public Forum: Local Campaign Financing**      **7:00 – 9:00 pm**  
*Money and Politics in Alameda: Time for Local Campaign Finance Reform?*  
**Location:** Community Center of Harbor Bay Isle, 3195 Mecartney Road  
(in the Harbor Bay Landing Shopping Center on Bay Farm Island).  
**Presenters:** Robert Stern, Whitney Barazoto, and Robert Gammon.  
**Organizers:** Joe Van Winkle and Karen Butter, LWVA Action Committee

**Monday, October 28**      **LWVA Book Club**      **3:00 – 4:30 pm**  
*Meet and discuss "My Beloved World," by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.*  
**Location:** Applebee's @ 2263 South Shore Center. (*See story on page 5. ed.*)

**Friday, November 1**      **First Friday Social Dinner**      **6:00 – 8:00 pm**  
*All LWVA members, families, and guests are welcome.*  
**Location:** La Penca Azúl – Bay Farm, 891-B Island Drive, Alameda. (*See story on page 6. ed.*)

**Wednesday, November 20**      **The California Health Insurance Exchange**      **7:00 – 9:00 pm** (*Note date change*)  
*Covered California: How California's Health Care Exchange Works*  
**Location:** Alameda Hospital—Dal Cielo Conf. Room (second floor), 2070 Clinton Avenue (@ Willow).  
**Presenters:** TBA.  
**Organizer:** Shubha Fanse, LWVA Health Care Committee Chair. (*See story on page 6. ed.*)

**Thursday, November 21**      **LWVA Board meeting**      **7:00 – 9:00 pm** (*Note new time*)  
**Location:** Alameda Hospital, Conference Room C (first floor). *All members are welcome.*

**Monday, December 2**      **LWVA Book Club**      **3:00 – 4:30 pm**  
*Meet and discuss "Zealot: the Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth," by Reza Aslan.*  
**Location:** Applebee's @ 2263 South Shore Center. (*See story on page 5. ed.*)

**Sunday, December 8**      **LWVA Holiday Party**      **5:00 – 8:00 pm**  
*All members and guests are welcome. Please bring something to share.*  
**Location:** Li Volin's home, 1506 Eastshore Drive, Alameda.

**\*\*\* NOTE:** *There will be no First Friday Social Dinner, LWVA Board meeting, or Public Forum in December. \*\*\**

**Friday, January 3, 2014**      **First Friday Social Dinner**      **6:00 – 8:00 pm**  
*All LWVA members, families, and guests are welcome.*  
**Location:** To be arranged (TBA). (*See story on page 6. ed.*)

**Thursday, January 16, 2014**      **LWVA Board meeting**      **7:00 – 9:00 pm** (*Note new time*)  
**Location:** Alameda Hospital, Conference Room C (first floor). *All members are welcome.*

**Thursday, January 23, 2014**      **LWVA Membership Meeting: Positions**      **7:00 – 9:00 pm**  
**Location:** TBA. *All members are encouraged to help review our new, proposed, and continuing positions on national and local issues. (State positions were reviewed in 2013.ed.)*

**Thursday, April 24, 2014**      **Meet Your Public Officials Reception**      **5:00 – 7:30 pm** (*tentative*)  
**Location:** TBA. (*All members are invited to help produce and attend this event.*)

*--Ruth Dixon-Mueller, Program Chair*

*The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.*

League of Women Voters of Alameda 7/8 October 2013 VOTER

## **Governor Brown Vetoes LWVC-backed Senate Bill 3, Signs Three More on State Campaign Finance**

Governor Jerry Brown has vetoed Senate Bill 3 (Yee, D-San Francisco), one of seven campaign finance reform bills backed by the League of Women Voters of California in the 2013 California legislative session. Brown has also signed three other bills that make smaller improvements in California's 39-year-old system for tracking campaign contributions.

In vetoing SB3 October 8, Brown acknowledged that Cal-Access needs updating. He directed the Government Operations Agency to consult with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) and the Secretary of State to recommend ways to improve campaign disclosure.

"Events of the last few years have shown how crucial campaign disclosure is. People can't make informed choices at the ballot box unless they can follow the money and recognize the political forces at work," said Jennifer A. Waggoner, president of the League of Women Voters of California. "Although the Governor's veto of SB 3 is a disappointment, we'll work with his administration to achieve well-trained campaign treasurers and more transparency overall. This problem isn't going away, and neither will we."

"The current system of disclosure for public officials is scattershot and doesn't provide the public the information it deserves on the economic interests of public officials," FPPC Chairwoman Ann Ravel said in a written statement.

Brown has signed three other bills to improve California's outdated system for tracking and disclosing campaign contributions. One bill, AB409 (Quirk-Silva, D-Fullerton) authorizes the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) to accept candidate and officeholder financial disclosure forms online. The legislation will also make it easier for members of the public to access the documents, also known as Form 700s, where candidates list their assets and economic ties. (The FPPC covers state and local candidates, but not those for federal offices.)

The other two bills that Brown signed are AB552 and AB1090 (Fong, D-Cupertino). Those bills, both requested by the FPPC, allow the agency to obtain court judgments for unpaid penalties and expand the advice offered to officials about possible conflicts of interest.

*--Karen Butter, Action Chair, with information from news sources*

## **Don't Miss These:**

### **The LWVA Board Now Meets from 7–9 PM**

**Robert Stern Is Our Keynote Speaker October 24 from 7-9 PM at  
*Money and Politic\$ in Alameda: Time for Local Campaign Reform?***

***Covered California: How Our State Health Care Exchange Works*  
Forum at Alameda Hospital on Wednesday, November 20 from 7-9 PM**

*...and...*

**The LWVA Holiday Party Is Sunday, December 8 from 5-8 PM  
*What Will You Bring—and What Will You Wear?***

*The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.*

League of Women Voters of Alameda 8/8 October 2013 VOTER